The Republican.

VOLUME II.

FROM JANUARY 14th, TO APRIL 21st 1820.

LIBERTY IS THE PROPERTY OF MAN. A REPUBLIC ONLY CAN PROTECT IT.

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DEDICATION.

TO SIR ROBERT GIFFORD, KNIGHT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Gratitude being one of the noblest traits in the character of animals, both rational and irrational, to which ever you may deem me allied, I feel that I owe it to you. I therefore embrace the earliest opportunity of dedicating a volume to you, in which I have had frequent occasion, most respectfully, to make allusions to your name and office. If I had followed the old beaten track of troubling you with an adulatory application, begging your permission to accept this dedication, I am certain that it would have excited your ire to a degree, to have occasioned a foaming at the mouth, equal to that I lately witnessed in the Court of King's Bench. Therefore, considering that the soil of Devon has nurtured us both; that we sprang up near at the same time, and under very similar circumstances, and that our relative situations in London have united us in an indissoluble tie, assuming a frank and friendly conduct, I have presumed to inscribe this second volume of the Republican to you, as a token of my esteem, and my sense of the high honour and benefit you have graciously bestowed upon me. Should the Attorney-General be angry, and think me over presumptuous, I am satisfied that Sir Robert Gifford will be pleased to have a volume dedicated to

him which is replete with matter a-kin to his own feelings. You, Sir Robert, are amongst those who have taught us, that a man in office, and out of office, forms two distinct beings, opposite both in nature and principle; and I should not be surprised, if, in the course of the common revolutions of all that is natural, this country should adopt a representative system of government, or in other words, a republican form, to find you filling some office, to which your abilities shall be commensurate, on the ground of your former boasted principles. It is a fact, daily demonstrated, that men who are eager to fill official situations, never make principle a bar to obtaining them. It is but fair to say, that when such men have a principle or an attachment to a particular form of government, they are calculated to fill an office under that system with more satisfaction, both to themselves and the public; but they are ever ready to sacrifice principle to interest. Since, Sir Robert, you cannot lay claim to eminence in this, or any other degree, I am sufficiently charitable to lay aside the weapon of censure, and grateful to confine myself more to an acknowledgement of the utility of your tergiversations towards him, who prays, that you might fill the office of Attorney-General, as long as His Majesty, or his heirs and successors, shall grace the throne of Great Britain.

I am, Sir,

Your grateful protegee,

RICHARD CARLILE.

Dorchester Gaol, April 16th, 1820.

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